

PART 170—ROADS OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

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SOURCE: Sections 170.1 to 170.9, 39 FR 27132, July 25, 1974, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 47 FR 13327, Mar. 30, 1982.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

§ 170.1 Purpose.

The regulations in this part govern the planning, design, construction, maintenance and general administration of certain Indian reservation roads and bridges.

§ 170.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Commissioner* means the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

(b) *Superintendent* means the Agency Superintendent at all locations, with the exception that at the Navajo Reservation this term shall mean the Area Director or his designated representative for public hearings on arterial roads which cross Agency boundaries of jurisdiction.

(c) *State* means a State or territory or political subdivision thereof.

(d) *Indian Reservation Roads and Bridges* means roads and bridges that are located within or provide access to an Indian reservation or Indian trust land or restricted Indian land which is not subject to fee title alienation without the approval of the Federal Government, or Indian and Alaska Native villages, groups or communities in which Indians and Alaskan Natives reside, whom the Commissioner has determined are eligible for services generally available to Indians under Federal laws specifically applicable to Indians. (23 U.S.C. 101(a))

(e) *Indian and Alaskan Native villages, groups, or communities in which Indian or Alaska Natives reside* means villages, groups or communities or portions of villages, groups, or communities in which the majority of the residents are Indians or Alaska Natives.

(f) *Federal-Aid Indian Road System* means those Indian reservation roads and bridges for which financial aid for construction is available only from specific appropriations of Federal funds therefor and which are designated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Highway Administration. This term does not include roads or bridges on Indian reservations for which financial aid for construction and improvement is available to a State under the Federal-Aid Highway Act. (45 Stat. 750)

(g) *Construction* means supervising, inspecting, actual building, and all expenses incidental to the construction and improvement of roads and bridges including the elimination of roadway hazards and the acquisition of rights-of-way.

(h) *Maintenance* means the act of preserving the entire roadway, including surface, shoulders, roadsides, structures, and the necessary traffic control devices as nearly as possible in the as-built condition and to provide services for the satisfactory and safe use of such roads.

§ 170.3 Construction and improvement.

Subject to the availability of appropriations for Indian reservation roads and bridges and any other contribution of State or Indian tribal lands, the

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Commissioner shall plan, survey, design and construct roads on the Federal-Aid Indian Road System to provide an adequate system of road facilities serving Indian lands.

§ 170.4 Approval of road construction activities.

The Secretary of Transportation or his authorized representative shall approve the location, type, and design of all projects on the Federal-Aid Indian Road System before any construction expenditures are made. All such construction shall be under the general supervision of the Secretary of Transportation or his authorized representative.

(23 U.S.C. 208)

§ 170.4a Selection of road construction projects.

The Commissioner, who is responsible for the planning, surveys and design, shall keep the appropriate local tribal officials informed of all technical information relating to the project alternatives of proposed road developments. The Commissioner shall recommend to the tribe those proposed road projects having the greatest need as determined by the comprehensive transportation analysis. Tribes shall then establish annual priorities for road construction projects. Subject to the approval of the Commissioner, the annual selection of road projects for construction shall be performed by tribes. Funds available for the construction of roads on the Federal-Aid Indian Road System shall not be used for the capital improvement to privately-owned property. (39 Stat. 355)

§ 170.5 Right-of-way.

(a) The procedure for obtaining permission to survey and for granting any necessary right-of-way are governed by part 169 of this chapter. Tribal consent as required under § 169.3(a) may be made by public dedication where proper tribal authority exists. Before any work is undertaken for the construction of road projects, the Commissioner shall obtain the written consent of the Indian landowners. Where an Indian has an interest in tribal land by virtue of a land use assignment, such consent shall be obtained from both the landholder of the assignment and the In-

dian tribe. Right-of-way easements are to be on a form approved by the Commissioner.

(b) If it appears that the road might be transferred to the tribe, the county or the State within 10 years, then before such construction is undertaken, right-of-way easements for the project shall be obtained in favor of the United States, its successors and assigns, with the right to construct, maintain, and repair improvements thereon and thereover, for such purposes and with the further right in the United States, its successors and assigns, to transfer the right-of-way easements by assignment, grant or otherwise.

§ 170.5a Employment of Indians.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs road program shall be administered in such a way as to provide training and employment of Indians. The Commissioner may contract with tribes and Indian-owned construction companies, or the Commissioner may purchase materials, obtain equipment and employ Indian labor in the construction and maintenance of roads.

(36 Stat. 861; 78 Stat. 241, 253; 78 Stat. 257; 25 U.S.C. 47; 42 U.S.C. 2000e(b), 2000e-2(i); 23 U.S.C. 208(c))

§ 170.6 Maintenance of Indian roads.

The administration and maintenance of Indian reservation roads and bridges is basically a function of the local Government. Subject to the availability of funds, the Commissioner shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, those approved roads on the Federal-Aid Indian Road System. The Commissioner may also maintain roads not on the Federal-Aid Indian Road System if such roads meet the definition of "Indian reservation road and bridges" and are approved for maintenance by the Commissioner. No funds authorized under 23 U.S.C. 208 are available for the maintenance of roads.

§ 170.6a Contributions from tribes.

The Commissioner may enter into agreements with an Indian tribe for a contribution from its tribal funds for the construction or maintenance of roads governed by regulations of this part. However, the tribe must be able to make such contributions without